

December 13, 2010

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, GN Docket No. 09-191 (Preserving the Open Internet),
WC Docket No. 07-52 (Broadband Industry Practices)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Alliance for Digital Equality (ADE) is a group founded on the core belief that digital technology is one of the most promising tools available to lessen the economic disparities that exist between affluent and distressed communities. In fulfillment of our mission, we advocate on behalf of those without a voice or who find themselves on the wrong side of the digital divide and as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) prepares to vote on a major compromise plan on the complex issue of network neutrality, we want to ensure that the voices of the disenfranchised segments of our population are heard. It is for this reason that Julius Hollis, Manuel A. Diaz and Shirley Franklin of ADE requested via e-mail a meeting with FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps on Friday, December 10, 2010.

In the meeting request, we reiterated our position as filed on 4 November, in which we expressed the FCC's primary focus should be fulfilling the National Broadband Plan to achieve universal access. ADE strongly feels that broadband provides a pathway to a better quality of life and provides us all with opportunities to improve our socio-economic situation – but that it needs to be available to all Americans. The debate over net neutrality, however, has distracted from efforts to expand affordable access to broadband to all Americans, resulting in lost opportunities that hit those in low-income and minority communities especially hard – at a time when Americans are already struggling.

Later this month the FCC has an opportunity to refocus efforts on this critical priority as the Commissioners vote on a mainstream compromise on net neutrality that will put the protracted debate to rest. The proposal up for vote will spur investment and the spread of high-speed access while protecting the Internet's traditional openness – things that are necessary for the broadband marketplace to become a full participant in our economic recovery.

We at ADE hope that the FCC moves to settle this issue, putting it behind us to shift focus to implementing a key component of the National Broadband Plan – making affordable broadband available to 100 percent of Americans.

Sincerely,

Julius Hollis, Chairman & CEO
Alliance for Digital Equality

Manuel A. Diaz, Vice Chairman
Alliance for Digital Equality

Shirley Franklin, Senior Advisor
Alliance for Digital Equality